

NOTE ON *ROMULEA PARVIFLORA* ECKLON

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In his recent paper Nordenstam (1972) states that *Romulea parviflora* Ecklon may be regarded as validly published, on the assumption that Ecklon's brief note accompanying this name in the "Topographisches Verzeichniss" (1827), namely "Blume rosenroth klein", is a sufficiently clear diagnosis to warrant this view. On the other hand, in a recent revision of the South African romuleas, I regard this as a nomen nudum, Ecklon's brief note in my opinion being insufficient to validate the name, as Ecklon also "described" three more species of *Romulea*, namely *R. hirsuta* Eckl., *R. ramosa* Eckl., and *R. rosea* (Vahl) Eckl., with only the words "Blumen rosenroth". Nordenstam correctly regards the first two of these names as nomina nuda.

The view that *R. parviflora* is validly published is therefore based on Ecklon having added the word "klein" to his descriptive note "Blumen rosenroth", for *R. parviflora*—and on the discovery of Ecklon's type of the name in the herbarium of the Swedish Natural History Museum (S).

To my mind the addition of this word is not sufficient to validate the name, even if it perhaps distinguished it from other taxa in Ecklon's opinion at that time (footnote to Art. 32 of the International Code, 1972), especially as Ecklon or someone else shortly afterwards identified more specimens of *Romulea* as *R. parviflora* which are not the same as the type.

I therefore maintain that the addition of the word "klein" to the general diagnosis for three other species of *Romulea* is not sufficient reason to validate *R. parviflora*. As the type of *R. parviflora* in S is *R. obscura* Klatt, this is the valid name and *R. parviflora* goes into synonymy as nomen nudum.

REFERENCES

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